

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 960

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1361

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. :11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: PEKING OPERA ALLUSIONS

REF: HONG KONG 11167

1. WHILE USLO FINDS INTRIGUING THE POSSIBILITY THAT
LEADING MALE CHARACTER IN TU CHUAN SHAN MAY BE REPRESENTATION
OF CHOU EN-LAI, WE ARE INCLINED TOWARD CAUTION IN
EXTENDING ANALOGIES IN THE PLAY TO OTHER THAN THE
LIN PIAO FIGURE. BOTH TIMES WE SAW THE OPERA IT DID NOT
OCCUR TO US THAT THE HEAVYSET, BUMBLING, IMPETUOUS,
UNSOPHISTICATED LEI KANG BORE ANY RESEMBLANCE TO THE URBANE, CAUTIOUS
AND SOPHISTICATED CHOU. WE DOUBT THAT THE AVERAGE CHINESE
OPERA GOER WOULD SEE PARALLEL WITH CHOU, HOLE IN SHOE INCIDENT
NOTWITHSTANDING. BY CONTRAST, LIN PIAO CHARACTER EVEN
RESEMBLES HIM PHYSICALLY. STRUCTURALLY, THE PARALLEL
IS ASKEW. LEI KANG IS THE LEADER, THE TRAITOR IS HIS DEPUTY.
THIS IS NOT A RELATIONSHIP THAT CHOU HAD WITH LIN, OR THAT

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WOULD HELP IDENTIFY CHOU WITH LEI KANG. THE CLOSEST

PARALLEL THAT LOCAL PURVEYORS OF SPECULATION CAME UP WITH
IS THAT LEI IS REALLY A YOUNG MAO, BUT THEY UTTER THIS
UNDER THEIR BREATHS.

2. AS REGARDS FEMALE PARTY REPRESENTATIVE, THIS CHARACTER
HAS BY NOW BECOME STANDARD IN A NUMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY
OPERAS. NO DOUBT IT IS A REFLECTION OF CHIANG CHINGS'S
INFLUENCE, BUT WE QUESTION WHETHER TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE
SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE APPEARANCE OF YET ANOTHER FEMALE
REVOLUTIONARY OPERA HEROINE.

3. IN SHORT, TWO THEMES ARE CLEAR : (1) INEVITABLE FALL
OF TRAITORS LIKE LIN PIAO, AND (2) THE PARTY COMMANDS
THE GUN. BEYOND THAT WE HESITATE TO VENTURE IN DRAWING
PARALLELS WITH THE CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE.

BRUCE

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